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December 12, 2005

Mr. Kimio Kikutani
Kioizaka Law & Patent Offices
Suite 402, Shuwa Kioicho Park Bldg.
3-6, Kioi-cho, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102-0094, JAPAN

      Re: U.S. Patent Application SN. 10/647,906
               Shinichiro WATANABE, *et al.* - Our Ref: KIOI:033
               Your Ref: FP0196

Dear Mr. Kikutani:

    Based on your letter of December 1, 2005, we have prepared and filed an Amendment with a one-month extension. A copy of the filing is enclosed.

    We amended claims 1-4 and added new claim 5 substantially as proposed in your letter. We omitted the superfluous language "degree of" from your proposed claim 1 to improve its form and readability. We also revised the specification as proposed in our previous letter. Please note that we previously filed a Preliminary Amendment to remove the multiple dependency in claim 3 and add new claim 4. Accordingly, we numbered your newly proposed claim as new claim 5.
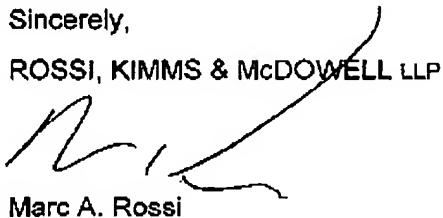
    Please continue to apprise us of all material information that should be disclosed to the PTO under Rule 56, including any related co-pending U.S. application, as well as any information that would refute the position that we have taken.

    If you have any questions, please contact us.

    Our invoice is enclosed.

    Best regards.

Sincerely,

ROSSI, KIMMS & McDOWELL LLP

Marc A. Rossi

MR/lk
Enclosures

SN. 10/647,906   ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. KIOI:033

Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 1-5 patentably distinguish over the applied references and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSSI, KIMMS & McDOWELL LLP

12/09/05

DATE

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